

REMARKS

Pending claims

Claims 1, 3, 12 and 22 have been amended to more clearly point out and distinctly claim the invention. These amendments do not contain new matter and are fully supported by the specification. After these amendments are entered, twenty four (24) Claims (claims 1, 3-10, and 12-26) are pending.

Claim Objections

The objection under 37 CFR 1.75(c) of claims 3, 12, 21-23 and 25-26 has been overcome through this Amendment.

Claims Rejections under 35 U.S.C §103

Claims 1, 4, 7, 9 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bui (US6,118,528). For the following reasons, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

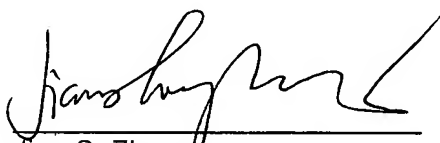
Bui does not disclose nor suggest anything about the sonotrode is immersed in the test liquid in such a way that ultrasonic waves emanating from the sonotrode are transferred to the test liquid to create a sufficiently high and homogeneous ultrasonic field which allows to identify defective lenses located in the holding container because they are destroyed when exposed to the ultrasonic field while perfect lenses remain undamaged. Applicants respectfully submit the Applicants invention as currently claimed is patentable over Bui and request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing and in conclusion, Applicants submit that the rejections set-forth in the Office Action have been overcome, and that all pending claims (claims 1, 3-10, and 12-26) are now in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that a discussion with Applicants' representative would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned. Please address all correspondence to Thomas Hoxie, Novartis Corporation, Corporate Intellectual Property, One Health Plaza, Bldg. 430, East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees which may be required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0134.

Respectfully submitted,


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